



U.S. Small Business Administration

SANTA ANA DISTRICT OFFICE

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# News Release

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## **Cosmedx Science, Inc. to Receive 2017 Exporter of the Year Award by U.S. Small Business Administration**

*Exporter gains international opportunities leveraging local and federal programs*

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** - The U.S. Small Business Administration, Santa Ana District Office is pleased to announce the selection of Corona-based Cosmedx Science, Inc. as the 2017 Small Business Exporter of the Year. Chris Amato, President and CEO, was nominated by Kimberly Davidson, Economic Development Manager for the City of Corona, CA.

Cosmedx Science, Inc. was established in 1981, and Amato purchased the company in 2013 after the passing of the founder. Prior to acquiring the business, Amato had spent many years in the corporate business management world and owning numerous small businesses. His technical consulting background and the experience of being a hands-on entrepreneur helped turn Cosmedx Science, Inc. into a diverse and sought after California exporter of private label beauty and personal care products.

At the time Amato acquired Cosmedx, in addition to the domestic market, it was exporting products throughout Asia. He made a commitment to increase the export business by networking at various international trade shows in conjunction with the California Trade Alliance and sought assistance from the Center for International Trade Development. To accomplish this, Amato benefited from funding made available through the SBA-funded State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) to support his attendance at both the Cosmoprof Asia and Cosmoprof Worldwide trade events. His participation in the U.S. Commercial Service Gold Key program helped to match Cosmedx with agents, distributors and strategic partners around the globe. This has led to Amato meeting with over 20 foreign representatives and establishing relationships with buyers and distributors throughout the European Union, Asia, Russia, South America, Central America, and the Middle East. With this focus and effort, Amato expects exporting sales to triple this year. He now attends the largest beauty and personal care trade shows in New York, Las Vegas, Hong Kong and Italy and has added Dubai and Mexico City to his 2017 calendar.

The growth in exporting has allowed Cosmedx to hire additional staff. With the increase in raw materials purchased from local vendors, the increased business with local trucking companies and the need to utilize temporary staffing agencies for production, Amato is creating jobs and generating additional economic benefits to the community.

Amato will be recognized and receive his award as the 2017 Exporter of the Year at the local Small Business Week Awards program which will be held Friday, June 9, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. until

approximately 2:00 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom. The event is being hosted by the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For more information on the event or to register, email [events@ochcc.com](mailto:events@ochcc.com) or call 714.953.4289.

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### **About Small Business Week**

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. As part of National Small Business Week, the agency takes the opportunity to highlight the impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners and others at local events around the country. Every day, these individuals are working to grow small businesses, create 21st century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness. For more information, please visit [www.sba.gov/nsbw/nsbw](http://www.sba.gov/nsbw/nsbw).